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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB158 – MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI**

Justin F. Kollar, Prosecuting Attorney  
County of Kaua'i

House Committee on Judiciary  
February 6, 2015, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB158 – Making Appropriations to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Maui. The Appropriation would fund the Department's prosecution of cases under the Drug Court and Mental Health Court programs.

In supporting these Appropriations, we adopt the reasoning set forth in the testimony submitted by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Maui.

Accordingly, we are in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB158. We request that your Committee **PASS** the Appropriations.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on these Appropriations.



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TESTIMONY  
ON  
HB 158 - MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

February 27, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto  
Vice Chair  
and Members  
House Committee on Judiciary

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB 158 - Making Appropriations to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Maui. HB 158 appropriates funds to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Maui for the prosecution of cases under the drug court and mental health court programs.

When the Judiciary created the drug and mental health court programs, the Department had no option but to comply by prosecuting qualifying cases in those court programs. The impact on the Department is that each court has dedicated to it one deputy prosecutor and one law technician. The following expenses are related to those positions:

Drug Court (salary + fringe):	
1 Deputy Prosecutor	\$ 209,537.86
1 Law Technician I	67,527.80

Mental Health Court (Salary + Fringe):	
1 Deputy Prosecutor	\$ 209,537.86
1 Law Technician I	<u>67,527.80</u>
Grand Total:	\$ 554,110.12

The Department struggles to meet this obligation. The Department has already absorbed much of the expenses of other state-mandated programs (Career Criminal Prosecution and Victim/Witness Assistance). The Department appreciates any financial assistance it can receive to help it meet its mandated responsibility.

Accordingly, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the passage of this bill. We ask that the committee **PASS** HB 158.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

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## **OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 158**

#### **A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI**

#### **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Friday, February 27, 2015, 1:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee on Finance, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of House Bill No. 158.

This measure appropriates funds to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Maui for the prosecution of cases under the drug court and mental health court programs.

The funding of these programs are essential for Maui prosecutors and will ensure the drug court and mental health programs continue to make a positive effect on the citizens of Maui.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i supports the passage of House Bill No. 158. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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**THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015  
State of Hawai'i**

February 27, 2015

**RE: HB. 158; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, members of the House Committee on Finance, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in strong support of H.B. 158.

Since Hawaii's first Drug Court Program was inceptioned on Oahu in 1996, Drug Court has expanded to the islands of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Maui, and Moloka'i, serving offenders within those criminal court and Family Court systems. Because the design and structure of each Drug Court is developed locally, these programs are unique and sensitive to the cultural population of each island, while remaining consistent with the benefits of drug court programs nationwide. These programs are also an efficient use of State resources, with Adult Drug Court costing about \$137/day in comparison to incarceration that costs seven times more, and Juvenile Drug Court costing \$227/day in comparison to incarceration that costs six times more. Deputy prosecuting attorneys play an important role in Drug Court--ensuring that this program is a success--and truly want to see offenders turn their lives around; this, in turn, also decreases criminal activity in our communities.

Mental health courts, another state mandated program, also play a key role in assuring that offenders receive appropriate treatment. Deputy prosecuting attorneys work hard in these courtrooms to pursue appropriate prosecution and proper sentencing in these matters.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney strongly supports the passage of H.B. 158, which will provide the funding needed to maximize services in the community, in the fields of Drug Court and Mental Health Court. Also, as the legislative session progresses, we kindly request that the funding in this bill be inserted into the State Budget, along with similarly necessary funding for each county prosecutor. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.